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19 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Training

SUBJECT: A Readiness Survival Training Plan
 for Agency Personnel

Survival training is the application of scientific knowledge and primitive living techniques to the problems of emergency living-- usually living with a minimum of equipment away from civilization.

This training is unique to our modern civilization. It utilizes scientific principles derived from a mass of accumulated facts and combines this with the use of efficient outdoor skills perfected through the ages by all races.

Through practical planned courses of instruction a modern man in average physical condition can be trained to live off the land, to travel and to operate under any conceivable set of unusual or hazardous conditions. Both the practical and the morale value of survival training is tremendous. Its potentialities in the military have only been touched upon. It will of necessity play a more prominent role among civilian populations and in modified form will be incorporated in civil defense preparations should the threat of total atomic war increase.

At the present time, the Central Intelligence Agency has at its disposal all the requirements for successfully conducting survival courses designed to meet global emergencies. These include:

1. Trained personnel with long experience in both the administrative and field work.
2. Complete records of training courses and their contents.
3. Visual teaching aids gathered over the years and throughout the world.
4. Documentary films (movies) of perfected courses of instruction.

At the present time there appears to be little or no requirement for survival training by Agency departments. This situation will in all probability not continue into the future. The present favorable

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readiness situation will also not continue due to the necessary closing out of active Agency participation in the MATS Survival School with the subsequent loss of associated personnel. We are perhaps now better prepared for giving a sound course in global survival than any branch of the military service.

Demands for survival training may arise at any time and require training on a fairly large scale. These demands will follow past patterns--they will increase as hostilities spread and casualties grow.

Expanding world populations, unevenly distributed resources, conflicting economic and social philosophies, combined with the fact that power for decision often rests in the hands of a few, make for a very precarious world future. For these reasons a plan is hereby respectfully submitted that will enable the Agency to rapidly develop and expand a survival training program when the need arises.

Training Considerations.

The following facts have been considered and weighed in drawing up a training plan:

1. The Agency does not currently have a requirement for survival training but may well have one in the future.
2. Any program must of necessity be limited in size, low in cost, but capable of continued functioning and rapid expansion if required.
3. Survival training should be done well or not at all. A training area in wilderness country embodying a wide range of climatic and terrain conditions is a prime requisite. This permits training to be flexible as regards global conditions.
4. The training courses should be tailored to fit specialized Agency needs. This would mean an emphasis on learning outdoor techniques, especially travel methods, and less on improvising equipment and living under simulated emergency conditions. There would be greater use of specialized field equipment.
5. The cover must be actually lived and practiced so that it is a joint venture--the cover a reality as well as the training.

The Plan.

Present Agency requirements for survival training do not justify my full-time employment in this capacity. I entered the Agency to do

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this type of work and would like to continue in it or related fields.
I therefore suggest:

1. That I lay the ground work for a training program and then resign from Agency employment, but continue an affiliation and train personnel as the need arises on a contract basis. This can be set up to function now or to start at any future time.

1
or ?
2.

2. That I continue in the Agency to do training work as outlined but on a part-time basis and at a reduced rate. This would necessitate working out some other form of income--perhaps writing, lecturing or research.

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3. Prepare narration for sound tracks on the winter survival movie and the summer survival movie. This is necessary if these movies are to be of full value in future training.

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5. Upon completion of this work further decisions can be made regarding the actual training arrangements. I estimate that this phase of the work will take between two and three months to complete.

6. If eventually the overall plan is not favorably acted upon, the Agency will still have benefited from the work produced up to that time. I will also have benefited by having time to look into other employment possibilities.

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Chief, Survival Training, ATB

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